



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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For Release: **IMMEDIATE**  
Date: December 4, 2007

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES NORTH CAROLINA LEADS THE NATION IN NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS FOR 12<sup>th</sup> YEAR**

*Wake County is No. 2 School District Nationally, Charlotte-Mecklenburg is No. 4*

**RALEIGH** - Gov. Mike Easley announced today that North Carolina leads the nation in the number of teachers who have earned certification by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. With 12,770 teachers across the state now certified, nearly 15 percent of North Carolina teachers have achieved National Board certification.

"We are proud that more than one-fifth of the nation's 64,000 National Board Certified teachers work in North Carolina classrooms," Easley said. "Our state supports and applauds these educators who are crucial to our efforts to prepare students for college, a career and success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

While North Carolina is the number one state in the national certification, Wake County ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> among all school districts in the nation for its number of National Board Certified teachers (1,259) and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools ranks 4<sup>th</sup> with 1,049 teachers who have earned the certification. Four North Carolina counties ranked in the nation's top 20 in the number of teachers receiving certification in 2007: Wake was 4<sup>th</sup> with 165; Charlotte Mecklenburg, 5<sup>th</sup> with 162; Guilford, 14<sup>th</sup> with 61; and New Hanover, 20<sup>th</sup> with 42.

National Board Certification, the highest credential in the teaching profession, requires an extensive series of performance-based assessments including teaching portfolios, student work samples, videotapes and thorough analyses of the candidates' classroom teaching and student learning. Teachers also complete a series of written exercises that probe the depth of their subject-matter knowledge, as well as their understanding of how to teach those subjects to their students.

North Carolina supports teachers' efforts to achieve National Board Certification in the following ways:

- Payment up front of the \$2,500 assessment fee. (Teachers are obligated to teach in the state the following year whether or not they achieve certification.)
- Three paid release days from normal teacher responsibilities to develop their portfolios.
- A 12-percent salary supplement to the teachers' regular salary, good for the 10-year life of the certification.